

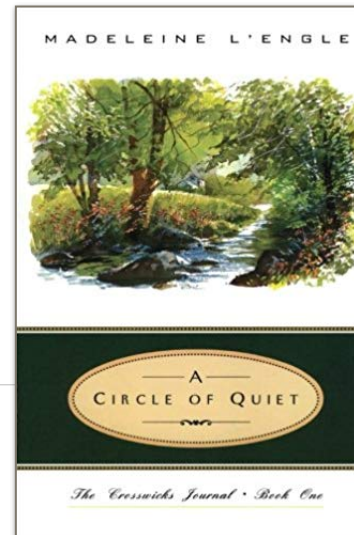
MAMA BOOK CLUB GUIDE

A Circle of Quiet

by Madeleine L'Engle

The first of her Crosswicks Journals, *A Circle of Quiet* shares Madeleine L'Engle's reflections on her life and career as prompted by a visit to her personal place of retreat near her country home.

Perhaps this would have been L'Engle's blog, if blogs had been a thing when she was writing. It's considered part memoir, part journal, love story, and assorted reflections on life.



Suggested Reading Plan:

Feel free to make this reading plan work for your own schedule. Just do what you can, and don't get worried if you fall behind or get off track.

Each Monday, a new thread will be posted in the forum to discuss that week's reading. [Find all of the conversations right here.](#)

- Week of June 3:** Part 1, Chapters 1-10
- Week of June 10:** Part 1, Chapters 11-21
- Week of June 17:** Part 2, Chapters 1-10
- Week of June 24:** Part 2, Chapters 11-22
- Week of July 1:** Need to catch up? Here's some time.
- Week of July 8:** Part 3, Chapters 1-13
- Week of July 15:** Part 4, Chapters 1-12
- July 25:** Join us for a live online book club event with Sarah Arthur. See the next page for details.

Some Questions to Ask as You Read

As you're reading, remember that literature is not intended to provide answers, but to raise questions. Note the questions that come up for you as you read—we'll be discussing them in the forum as we read along together.

Here are a few questions to prompt you:

- ▶ What jumps out at you as you read? Mark it. You don't need to know why it caught your attention—the first step is just to note that it did! Sometimes this will be something that resonates with you, other times it will be something you disagree with. For now, just mark it.
- ▶ L'Engle herself is the main character in this story. What does she seem most afraid of? What does she seem to want more than anything else?
- ▶ If any words/phrases pop up frequently, circle them (or jot them in a notebook). Sometimes a theme will emerge through this kind of repetition.
- ▶ How is this book like/different from any other books you've read by L'Engle?
- ▶ What does the title tell us about what L'Engle herself thought this book was about?



Meet Madeleine L'Engle

Madeleine L'Engle (1918-2007) was an American writer, wife, and mother. Her books for young people include the Newbery Award winner, *A Wrinkle in Time*. Her work reflects both her Christian faith and her strong interest in science.

She is known to spark controversy—too Christian for some, too unorthodox for others. “Somewhere in the middle,” writes Sarah Arthur in her (excellent) book, [A Light So Lovely: The Spiritual Legacy of Madeleine L'Engle](#), “was a complex woman whose embrace of paradox has much to say to a new generation of readers today.”

If you'd like to learn more about L'Engle herself, we encourage you to listen to the six episodes on [The Madeleine Podcast](#), hosted by Sarah Arthur.

Join us for our live Mama Book Club event with Sarah Arthur

The author of [A Light So Lovely: The Spiritual Legacy of Madeleine L'Engle](#) will lead us in a live hour-long webinar to culminate our book club.

- ▶ July 25th, 5pm PT/6pm MT/7pm CT/8pm ET
- ▶ [RSVP here](#)

